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## *Cease-Fire Developments*



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SOUTH VIETNAMThe Military Situation in South Vietnam

Heavy fighting persists in parts of the delta with both sides reportedly taking substantial losses. Following a South Vietnamese military initiative, government regulars after several days of stiff Communist resistance have reassumed control over much of a long-time Viet Cong base area in the border area of Kien Tuong-Kien Phong-Dinh Tuong provinces. The South Vietnamese are also conducting operations against a Communist-held area along the coast in Vinh Binh Province. The US vice consul general believes that the province chief is under pressure from Military Region 4 authorities to stake a claim to this area before there is any formal delineation of territorial control.

The desire of the government to lay claim to disputed ground may also have prompted a recent move into Communist-held territory in Chuong Thien Province. South Vietnamese rangers took heavy losses there on 5 June, and sporadic clashes continued through 6 June. In the northern provinces, there has been some increase in Communist shellings, with some rocket rounds reportedly hitting Kontum City. Some of the attacks appear to be in response to renewed government clearing efforts. Little significant fighting was reported from other areas of the country, although tension remains high in areas such as Tay Ninh.

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Saigon's Forces Alerted for Communist Attacks

The South Vietnamese military command notified its field units on 6 June that COSVN units are under

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orders to launch attacks against targets the Communists had briefly held during late January.

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[redacted] the South Vietnamese stated that the attacks would occur from 7 to 10 June. The new alert is essentially a repeat of a warning about a possible Communist "land-grab" attempt issued by the South Vietnamese Joint General Staff on 31 May. The earlier order had directed all units to heighten security and intelligence collection and had ordered all commanders to eject "by any means necessary" all enemy forces trying to seize government-controlled territory.

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CAMBODIAThe Military Situation

Khmer Communist forces are maintaining pressure against a short stretch of Route 4 between the villages of Thnal Totung and Ang Snuol, some 12 miles west of Phnom Penh. One and possibly two government infantry battalions and a squadron of armored vehicles are being sent from Phnom Penh to help clear the highway. A few miles south of Thnal Totung, Communist troops have occupied the village of Kompung Tram on Route 26. Government forces in this area have withdrawn to a nearby sugar factory, which at last report was under attack. A small government relief force is trying to make its way to the factory. Only light enemy activity was reported on 7 June on Route 26 north of Thnal Totung.

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A Mekong resupply convoy arrived safely in Phnom Penh on 7 June. The convoy, which consisted of seven POL tankers and a munitions barge, reportedly encountered only minor harassing fire in its passage up the river from South Vietnam.

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